IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 23 without prejudice to the subject matter therein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of packaging a brittle food-stuff comprising the steps of forming a tube, forming a first seal at a lower end of the tube, feeding a pre-determined amount of the food-stuff to be packaged into the tube, forming a second seal in the tube at a pre-determined distance above the first seal, repeating the steps of feeding the food-stuff and sealing along the tube to form a strip of sealed pouches of pre-determined dimensions and predetermined volume containing the food-stuff and inserting the strip of sealed pouches into a carton, wherein ~~the pouch dimensions are calculated such that each pouch can contain~~ the bulk volume of said predetermined amount of food-stuff fed into each pouch is less than the volume of each pouch, whereby, when each pouch is sealed, each pouch contains the desired quantity of food-stuff, as well as a predetermined amount of air to protect the food-stuff by cushioning.

2. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the strip of sealed pouches is arranged substantially upright or transverse in the carton.

3. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the strip of sealed pouches is arranged in a concertina configuration in the carton.

4. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged in the carton.

5. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged parallel to one another in the carton.

6. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are releasably attached to one another.

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one pleat is formed in the tube so that the pouches are expandable.

8. (previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the at least one pleat is formed in each pouch after the lower end of each pouch is sealed but before the goods are fed into the pouch.

9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pouches in the or each strip are substantially the same size.

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each pouch is substantially cuboidal in shape.

11. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein each pouch is substantially cubic in shape.

12. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sealing is by means of heat.

13. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sealing is by means of an adhesive.

14. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube is formed of plastics material.

15. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube is formed of waxed paper.

16. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein printed matter is applied to each pouch of the strip of pouches.

17. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein perforations are formed between each pouch of the strip of pouches to enable separation of the pouches from one another.

18. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the perforations are formed by means of a comb-type cutter.

19. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the comb-type cutter has means for severing the pouches from one another.

20. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the pouches are severed from one another after a pre-determined number of pouches has been filled and sealed.

21. (cancelled)

22. (original) Packaged brittle food-stuff produced by the method as claimed in claim 1.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the pouches in the carton are arranged in a space-filling pattern.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the pouches are inserted into the carton so that the walls of the carton hold the pouches in the space filling pattern.

26. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip of filled pouches is folded into a pattern in a first step, the folded pouches being subsequently inserted into the carton.

27. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip of filled pouches is folded at points between the pouches.

Please add the following new claims:

28. (new) A method according to claim 25, wherein the strip of filled pouches is folded into a pattern in a first step, the folded pouches being subsequently inserted into the carton.

29. (new) A method of packaging a brittle food-stuff comprising the steps of forming a tube, forming a first seal at a lower end of the tube, feeding a pre-determined amount of the food-stuff to be packaged into the tube, forming a second seal in the tube at a pre-determined distance above the first seal, repeating the steps of feeding the food-stuff and sealing along the tube to form a strip of sealed pouches of pre-determined dimensions and predetermined volume containing the food-stuff, the bulk volume of said predetermined amount of foodstuff fed into each pouch is less than the volume of each pouch, whereby, when each pouch is sealed, each pouch contains the desired quantity of food-stuff, as well as a predetermined amount of air to protect the food-stuff by cushioning, wherein each pouch is substantially cuboidal in shape and the strip of filled pouches is folded into a pattern in a first step, the folded pouches being subsequently inserted into a carton, the pattern being configured so that the walls of the carton hold the pouches in the space filling pattern.